

**Subject: THE GYPSY COUNCIL MOBILE OFFICE AT
WOODSIDE+EVICTON NOTICE****Date:** Mon, 30 Sep 2002 16:45:56 EDT**From:** CODONA9@AOL.COM**Reply-To:** Traveller-Net' Network <TRAVELLER-NET@JISCMAIL.AC>
To:

The Gypsy Council Mobile Office At Woodside

The Gypsy Council at its last meeting resolved to open a mobile office at Woodside. By this act the Gypsy Council wishes to show support and solidarity with the Travellers of Woodside. The office will also give clerical support to the residents of Woodside in their campaign to keep their homes. The office will be operated three days a week by myself and other Gypsy Council members and in fact opened today. This message is being written from Woodside.

Last Saturday at a historic meeting of Traveller groups, Irish, English and Scottish Travellers united to form the Traveller Law Reform Coalition to campaign for the Traveller Law Reform Bill. At the meeting a plan of action was mapped out, which includes parliamentary initiatives involving MPs that support the bill from the Liberal, Conservative and Labour Party. As part of the campaign for reform it was resolved that it was important to highlight the plight of Travellers like those at Woodside and other such sites in danger of losing their homes.

Last night Cliff Codona spoke on the Edwina Currie Show on Radio 5 about Woodside. Also appearing on the show was Bryan E Collier Conservative leader of Mid Bedfordshire Council, who on the programme clearly stated that the eviction would take place on the 1/11/2002. That warning was again clearly spelt out first thing this morning when a group of men accompanied by the police posted eviction notices on caravans. For the Travellers of Woodside this was a traumatic experience. Cliff Codona stated

"I am disgusted by this action today, do these people not realise that losing your home is a disturbing and stressful experience, a phone call informing me that they were coming would have been a common act of decency. Instead I have to look out of my caravan window by chance and see men posting eviction notices with a police car outside my trailer. I deeply resent the police being called here by Mid Bedfordshire Council and their solicitors. Violence and aggression has never been shown to council officials or their agents. I sit on police committees in Bedfordshire, I have excellent relations with the police in Bedfordshire".

Whilst the eviction was being served Paul Griffiths the Leader of the Labour group in Mid Bedfordshire, who has been to Woodside before and has stoutly opposed the eviction, came and pledged his continued support for Woodside and promised to do everything in his power to stop the eviction.

Regards,

Andrew Ryder